

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCA-01
MMO-01 EB-08 /068 W
-----100654Z 092535 /21

R 091600Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL QUEBEC
TO SECSTATE WWUIHDC 918
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL TORONTO

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUEBEC 0103

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, CVIS, CA
SUBJECT : WILL SOME LOYALISTS BE RETURNING 200 YEARS LATER?

1. RECENT CONVERSATIONS WITH ANGLOPHONE SMALL BUSINESSMEN IN QUEBEC CITY REVEALED A GROWING FEELING THAT THERE MAY NO LONGER BE A PLACE FOR THEM IN QUEBEC CITY. THESE BUSINESSMEN ARE NOT MONTREAL WEST ISLANDERS BUT RATHER THE SURVIVORS OF OLD-LINE ENGLISH-CANADIAN QUEBEC CITY FAMILIES. THEY HAVE ASSIMILATED WELL DURING THE CHANGES OF THE LAST 20 YEARS AND FUNCTION--IN FRENCH--IN THIS 97 PLUS PERCENT FRENCH-SPEAKING REGION. THEY ARE THE TYPE WHO HAVE PREACHED--AND PRACTICED--INTEGRATION WITHIN FRENCH-SPEAKING COMMUNITY AND WHO DEPLORED HYSTERIC REACTIONS TO QUEBEC'S LANGUAGE PROBLEMS SUCH AS CFCF'S SEPTEMBER, 1975 CRUSADE AGAINST BILL 22. YET THE CHANGES IN QUEBEC LIFE ARE FINALLY GETTING TO THEM AS WELL.

2. FIRST AND FOREMOST ON THEIR LIST OF COMPLAINTS IS THE PENDING LANGUAGE LEGISLATION WHICH IS PURPORTED TO BE MORE SEVERE EVEN THAN BILL 22. IF, AS THEY FEAR, ENGLISH-SPEAKING BUSINESSMEN MUST HAVE INTEROFFICE CORRESPONDANCE WITH OTHER ANGLOPHONES IN FRENCH, THAT COULD BE LAST STRAW. SCHOOL SITUATION BOTHERS THEM LESS
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AS MOST OF THEIR CHILDREN HAVE GROWN AND LEFT PROVINCE FOR GOOD. HOWEVER, OTHER MAIN COMPLAINT CONCERNS THE FAST PACE OF SOCIAL CHANGE THEY NOW EXPECT FROM PQ GOVERNMENT. FREEZING OF RENTS, PENDING ANTI-SCAB LEGISLATION, PENDING CHANGES IN AUTOMOBILE AND OTHER INSURANCE PROCEDURES, CHANGES IN MINIMUM WAGES, ETC. HAVE ALL COMBINED TO PRODUCE A SEVERE DEPRESSION AMONG THOSE CONTACTS. SOME MAY YET TOUGH IT OUT BUT MANY ARE CONSIDERING LEAVING.

3. COMMENT: WHILE THIS POST THUSFAR HAS HAD ONLY A SCORE OF
SERIOUS IMMIGRANT VISA INQUIRIES ATTRIBUTABLE TO THE
NOVEMBER 15 ELECTION RESULTS, SIGNS OF RESTLESSNESS ARE GROWING.
CONSIDERING THE SHORT WAIT FOR IMMIGRANT VISAS UNDER NEW LEGISLATION,
MANY OF THE RESTLESS, BE THEY ANGLOPHONE OR CONSERVATIVE FRANCO-
PHONES, MAYBE MOVING OUT. FOR MOST THE U.S. SEEMS
A MORE ATTRACTIVE HAVEN THAN OTHER PARTS OF CANADA. CERTAINLY,
THE PQ GOVERNMENT IS DETERMINED TO ACT STRONGLY AND SWIFTLY IN
SOCIAL DOMAIN TO ENSURE THAT CHANGES IT IS EFFECTING ARE
IRREVERSIBLE. IT SEEMS MORE THAN LIKELY THAT A SMALL SEGMENT OF LOCAL

POPULATION --WE DO NOT WANT TO EXAGGERATE THIS ISSUE--WILL
OPT FOR LEAVING QUEBEC. HOWEVER, THOUGH PROPORTION MAY BE
SMALL POLITICALLY, IT COULD HAVE SOME EFFECT ON ECONOMY AND,
INCIDENTALLY, ON OUR CONSULAR OPERATIONS IN PROVINCE.
MCNAMARA

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PROVINCE, BUSINESSMEN, PRESS COMMENTS, OFFICIAL LANGUAGE, POLITICAL PARTIES, SMALL BUSINESS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977QUEBEC00103
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770082-0133
Format: TEL
From: QUEBEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770378/aaaacqgj.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: eb585ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 21-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3161799
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: WILL SOME LOYALISTS BE RETURNING 200 YEARS LATER?
TAGS: PINT, CVIS, CA
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/eb585ebb-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009